Learning Objectives

After completing this module section, participants should be able to:

- Understand the different reporting requirements between a Category I, Category II, and Category III Communicable Disease
- Identify the legislative mandates for communicable disease investigation
- Describe the basic process to conduct an epidemiologic investigation of a communicable disease
Category III Communicable Diseases

The following diseases shall be reported to the state epidemiologist on an AIDS Case Report (DPH 4264) or a Wisconsin Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection Confidential Case Report (DPH 4338) or by other means within 72 hours after identification of a case or suspected case.

- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection

Pertussis Part 1

Resources

- Control of Communicable Diseases Manual

Pertussis Part 2: Investigation

Epidemiology Overview

Environment

Agent

Host
Public Health Nurse Interventions: Disease and Health Event Investigation

"Disease and health event investigation systematically gathers and analyzes data regarding threats to the health of populations, ascertains the sources of the threat, identifies cases and others at risk, and determines control measures."

1. Define the problem.
2. Establish clear criteria for what constitutes a case.
   a. Consider existing data.
   b. Generate and analyze data using appropriate scientific and epidemiological principals.
   c. Determine, based on the analysis, what factors are likely to cause the problem or risk.
   d. Determine and communicate an appropriate response.
   e. Evaluate the effectiveness of any action taken.


Public Health Nurse Interventions: Case Finding

1. Identify those individuals and families at particular risk through information from surveillance, disease and health event investigation, and outreach.
2. Connect with formal and informal networks to find those identified as at-risk.
3. Initiate activities to provide information about the nature of the risk, what can be done about it, and how services can be obtained.
4. Provide direct access to necessary services if the level of risk suggests endangerment to the individual, family, or community.
5. Fulfill all reporting requirements mandated by state laws and regulations, including reporting of notifiable contagious diseases or child maltreatment.


Public Health Nurse Interventions: Surveillance

"Surveillance describes and monitors health events through ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data for the purpose of planning, implementing, and evaluating public health interventions."
Public Health Nurse Interventions: Surveillance

The basic steps of surveillance the public health nurse may consider with a pertussis case are:

1. Determine whether surveillance is appropriate for the circumstances.
2. Acquiring the necessary knowledge of the problem, its natural course, and its aftermath.
3. Establishing clear criteria of what is a case.
4. Collect sufficient data from multiple valid sources.
5. Analyze data using appropriate scientific and epidemiologic principles, including number of cases, contacts, description of population affected, where it is occurring, and the period of time over which it occurred.
6. Interpret and disseminate the data in such a way that decision makers at all levels can readily identify and understand the implications.
7. Evaluate the impact of the surveillance system.

Source: (Minnesota Department of Health. 2001. Public health interventions.)

Confidentiality

HFS 145.04(2)(d)

Confidentiality

“A public health authority that is authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including, but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions;”

45 CFR § 164.512 of the HIPAA Privacy Rule


Isolation and Quarantine

• Isolation is separation, for the period of communicability, of infected person from others in such places and under such conditions as will prevent the direct or indirect transmission of an infectious agent to susceptible people who may spread agents to others.

• Quarantine is restricting the freedom of movement of well person or domestic animals who have been exposed to a communicable disease for a period of time relating to the usual incubation period of the disease, in order to prevent effective contact with those so exposed.

Wisconsin Statute Chapter 252.06 authorizes the health officer of a local health department to require isolation of a patient or individual and quarantine of contacts as may be necessary.
Personal Protective Equipment

Pertussis Case Conclusion

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